

CLAIMS

1. A weatherstrip for a motor vehicle comprising, in combination,
a metal carrier having a first region of a first flexibility and a second region of a second flexibility distinct from said first flexibility, and
an elastomeric material disposed about said carrier and including at least one sealing feature.
2. The weatherstrip of claim 1 wherein said metal carrier is fabricated of steel or aluminum.
3. The weatherstrip of claim 1 wherein said first region includes a plurality of apertures disposed generally centrally along said metal carrier.
4. The weatherstrip of claim 1 wherein said second region includes a plurality of transverse slits.
5. The weatherstrip of claim 1 wherein said sealing feature includes a pair of flanges.
6. The weatherstrip of claim 1 wherein said metal carrier is U-shaped in cross-section and a portion of said elastomeric material defines a corresponding U-shape.

7. The weatherstrip of claim 1 wherein said metal carrier is a continuous, unitary piece.

8. A sealing strip for a motor vehicle comprising, in combination,
a U-shaped carrier having a first longitudinally extending region of a first flexibility and a second longitudinally extending region of a second flexibility distinct from said first flexibility, and

an elastomeric material disposed about said carrier and including at least one feature adapted to provide a seal against a vehicle component.

9. The weatherstrip of claim 8 wherein said U-shaped carrier is fabricated of steel or aluminum.

10. The weatherstrip of claim 8 wherein said first region includes a plurality of apertures disposed generally centrally along said U-shaped carrier.

11. The weatherstrip of claim 8 wherein said second region includes a plurality of transverse slits.

12. The weatherstrip of claim 8 wherein said sealing feature includes a pair of flanges.

13. The weatherstrip of claim 8 wherein said sealing feature includes a generally circular, hollow member.

14. The weatherstrip of claim 8 wherein a portion of said elastomeric material defines a shape corresponding to said U-shaped carrier.

15. A weatherstrip for a motor vehicle comprising, in combination,
a hybrid carrier having a first longitudinally extending region of a first flexibility and a second longitudinally extending region of a second flexibility distinct from said first flexibility, and

an elastomeric sealing material encapsulating said carrier, said material defining at least one longitudinally extending sealing feature.

16. The weatherstrip of claim 15 wherein said hybrid carrier is fabricated of metal.

17. The weatherstrip of claim 15 wherein said first region includes a plurality of apertures disposed generally centrally along said hybrid carrier.

18. The weatherstrip of claim 15 wherein said second region includes a plurality of transverse slits.

19. The weatherstrip of claim 15 wherein said sealing feature includes a pair of flanges.

20. The weatherstrip of claim 15 wherein said hybrid carrier is U-shaped in cross-section and said elastomeric material defines a corresponding U-shape.